

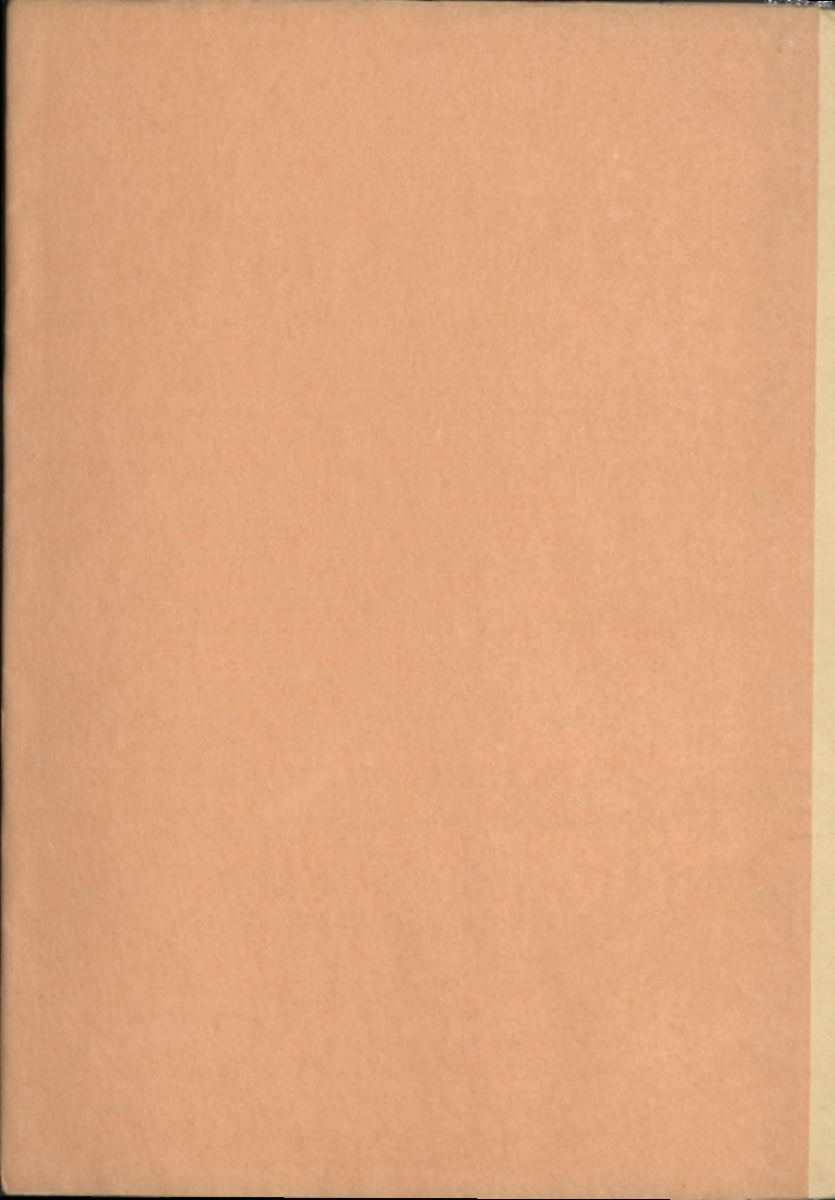
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CONQUISTADORES & MISSIONARIES

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CONQUISTADORES & MISSIONARIES



Decorative Fabrics of Distinction

STROHEIM & ROMANN

730 FIFTH AVENUE at 57th STREET
NEW YORK

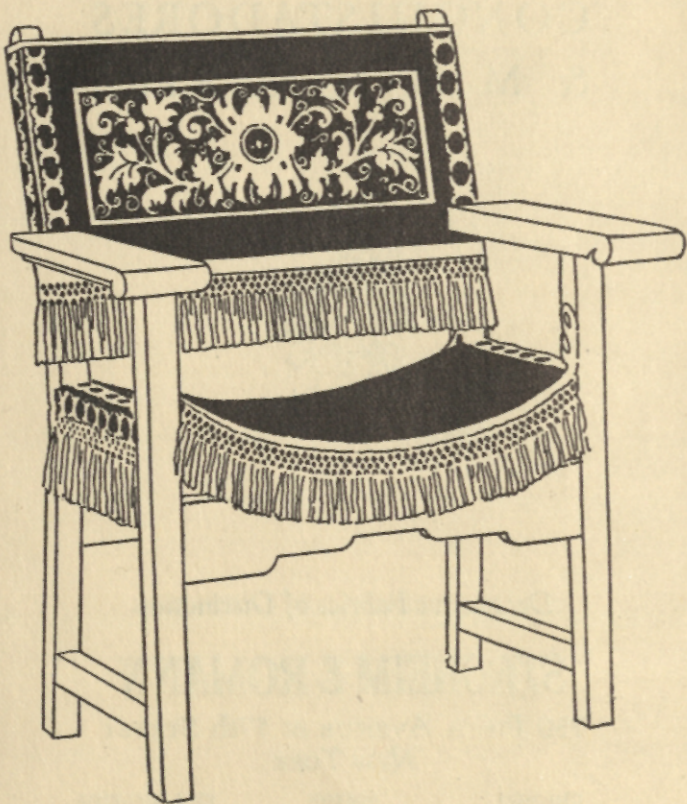
CHICAGO
Heyworth Bldg.

BOSTON
Berkeley Bldg.

PHILADELPHIA
Finance Bldg.

LOS ANGELES
Chillis Block

SAN FRANCISCO
Jewelers Bldg.



17th century Spanish armchair of traditional type.



HUNDREDS of cities in the southern part of the United States have names of Spanish origin. They serve to remind us of the fact that for more than three hundred years a large part of our country was nominally under the control of Spain. Their history is the history of the Spanish conquistadores and missionaries who came to the New World eager for the conquest of gold or of souls.

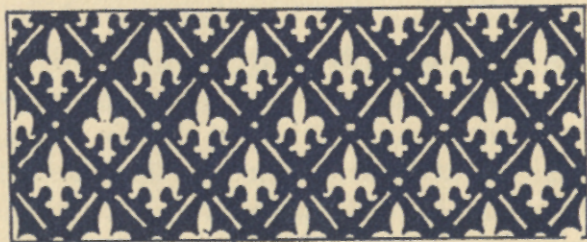
FAMILIAR indeed are the names of these daring adventurers who followed Columbus to a new land. Familiar, too, are the tales of their exploits. The fabulous wealth which they sought seldom materi-

alized. Ponce de Leon, exploring the coast of Florida, found there neither riches nor the fountain of youth. Panfilo de Narvaez suffered nothing but hardships during the six months that he was on that peninsula, and the flimsy fleet which he hastily constructed to make his escape was destined only for disaster.

FERDINANDO DE SOTO was another of the Spanish explorers who was lured to Florida by tales of the enormous wealth to be found there. De Soto had accompanied various expeditions to the New World. He had played a prominent part in the conquest of Peru, and with the fortune that he thus acquired he was enabled both to acquire an estate in Spain and to marry the daughter of his former patron. Apparently dissatisfied with a leisurely life, however, he obtained a commission from Charles V as "adelantado of the Lands of Florida," and sold enough of his property to equip an expedition of his own which

consisted of four armed ships, 123 horsemen and 620 footmen. For four years De Soto wandered about the southeastern part of our country. Then he extended his fruitless search westward towards the great river which was to be his final resting place.

THESE early adventurers made little effort to colonize the newly explored regions. Occasionally, a missionary or two would be left to convert the Indians, but the earliest of these missions proved only temporary. It was not until the year of 1565 that the Spaniards founded



A cut velvet of minute diagonal pattern—a type that preceded the large floral patterns of the late 16th century in Spain.

St. Augustine, the first permanent settlement by Europeans in what is now the United States. Santa Fé, New Mexico, which was built in 1605 upon the site of a deserted Indian pueblo, claims to be the second oldest city of European origin in the United States.

SINCE the conquest of Mexico in 1520, the Spaniards had been using that country as a base for exploring parties to the southwestern part of our country. Brother Marcos de Niza was the first European to enter the limits of New Mexico. Inspired by the tales of Brother Marcos, Coronado a little later started out on his famous expedition. His brilliant company explored a vast extent of country from the Colorado river to the boundless prairies of central Kansas. The Grand Canyon, the "hump-backed oxen" or bison, and many more strange sights were seen and described by Europeans for the

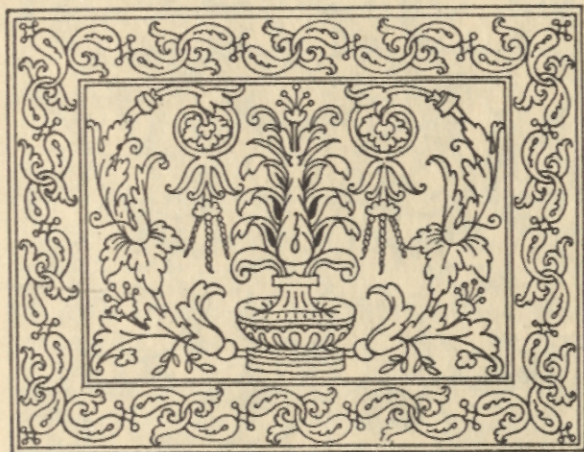
first time, but the seven cities of vast wealth were never found.

BY the middle of the 16th century conquest was almost complete. The next period deals with the settlement of land thus opened up through exploration. Many of the early Spanish settlements were ecclesiastical, military and civil in character, and were known respectively as missions, presidios and pueblos. San Antonio, Texas, had both a presidio and mission which were established there in 1718.

"TO the right of the Indies, very near the quarter of the terrestrial paradise" was California, a country that was practically unknown for more than two centuries. The Jesuit missionaries entered Lower California as early as 1697, but not until the middle of the 18th century, when Russia began to explore Alaska, did Spain show any real interest in Upper California.

During the next few years many settlements were made. It is known as the mission period in California history. Between the years 1769-1823, twenty-one missions were established. The leader in the movement was Miguel José Serra, known as Junipero Serra, a friar of "very great ability, purest piety and tireless zeal". At these missions, the natives carried on their handicrafts or engaged in primitive manufacture. Dependent as the natives were upon the missions for support, on the other hand, the government was economically dependent upon them.

POLITICAL upheavals in Spain had little effect upon the settlements in these far-off provinces. The order for the secularization of all missions in America which were ten years old, was not made known in California until eight years after the decree had been passed. During the next few years, from 1824-1840, the missions were disbanded.



An appliqué chair back of the late 16th century.

IN 1848 the territory covered by California, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, was ceded by Mexico to the United States. Texas had been annexed three years before, while Florida had been ceded by Spain in 1819.

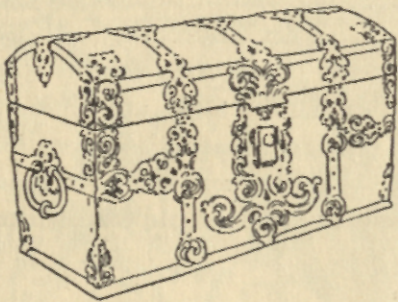
IN view of the fact that Spain has played such an important part in the history of our country, is it to be wondered at that



A Spanish gold brocade of the High Renaissance. The pattern is a descendant of the earlier pomegranate patterns.

Spanish architecture and Spanish furnishings should be both acceptable and appropriate for use in the United States?

PARTICULARLY in her textiles did Spain display her love for color and elegance. Magnificent indeed they were in the days of her supremacy—those gold brocades and sumptuous velvets, those exquisite damasks and appliqué panels. Magnificent, too, are the fabrics of our own day which repeat the patterns and reflect the beauty of the old Spanish textiles.



A trunk belonging to one of the early conquistadores.



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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

